

DRAFT AMENDMENT FOR EXAMINER'S COMMENT ONLY

Serial number 10,020,419

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Examiner: Janet Andres Ph.D.

1-18 (withdrawn)

19. (Canceled) A method of alleviating a bone disorder in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal, an effective amount of a PRO4425 polypeptide or an agonist thereof.

20. (Canceled) A method of increasing bone growth in a mammal, comprising contacting injured or developing bone in said mammal with PRO4425, thereby increasing the growth of said bone.

21. (Canceled) The method of Claim 19, wherein said agonist is an anti-PRO4425 polypeptide antibody.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~22~~ 29 or 30 wherein said agonist ~~antibody~~ is an antibody fragment.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 22 wherein the ~~said~~ antibody fragment is a Fab fragment

24-26. (withdrawn)

27. (Canceled) The method of Claim 19, wherein said bone disorder is selected from the group consisting of osteoarthritis, osteoporosis, osteomyelitis, osteogenesis imperfecta and rheumatoid arthritis.

28. (Canceled) A method of alleviating a bone disorder in a mammal, wherein alleviating said bone disorder comprises decreasing bone formation by administration of an effective amount of PRO4425 antagonist.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating the proliferation of chondrocytes, said method comprising contacting chondrocytes with an effective amount of PRO4425 polypeptide as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) or PRO4425 polypeptide agonist antibody.

30. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating the proliferation of osteoblasts, said method comprising contacting osteoblasts with an effective amount of PRO4425 polypeptide as shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2) or PRO4425 polypeptide agonist antibody.

31.(New) The method of Claim 29, wherein said PRO4425 polypeptide has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID NO:2).

32.(New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said PRO4425 polypeptide has at least 95% sequence identity to the amino acid sequence shown in Figure 2 (SEQ ID: NO 2).

33.(New) The method of Claim 29, wherein said PRO4425 polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).

34.(New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said PRO4425 polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1).